

ABSTRACT

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The present invention relates to ~~therapeutic and diagnostic methods~~ <sup>for detection of malignancy or nervous system disorders</sup> and compositions ~~based on Notch proteins and nucleic acids. The invention~~ <sup>based</sup> ~~on the level of Notch proteins or nucleic acids.~~ <sup>provides for treatment of disorders of cell fate or differentiation by administration</sup> of a ~~therapeutic compound of the invention.~~ Such ~~therapeutic compounds (termed~~ <sup>therapeutic</sup> ~~herein "Therapeutics") include Notch proteins and analogs and derivatives~~ <sup>including fragments</sup> thereof, ~~antibodies thereto, nucleic acids encoding the~~ <sup>Notch proteins, analogs, or derivatives, Notch antisense nucleic acids, as well as</sup> ~~topolythmic proteins and derivatives which bind to or otherwise interact with~~ <sup>Notch proteins and their encoding nucleic acids and antibodies.</sup> In a preferred ~~embodiment, a Therapeutic of the invention is administered to treat a cancerous~~ <sup>embodiment, a Therapeutic of the invention is administered to treat a cancerous</sup> ~~condition, or to prevent progression from a pre-neoplastic or non-malignant state~~ <sup>condition, or to prevent progression from a pre-neoplastic or non-malignant state</sup> ~~into a neoplastic or a malignant state. In other embodiments, a Therapeutic is~~ <sup>administered to treat a nervous system disorder or to promote tissue regeneration</sup> ~~administered to treat a nervous system disorder or to promote tissue regeneration~~ <sup>and repair. In one embodiment, Therapeutics which antagonize, or inhibit, Notch</sup> ~~and repair. In one embodiment, Therapeutics which antagonize, or inhibit, Notch~~ <sup>function (hereinafter "Antagonist Therapeutics") are administered for therapeutic</sup> ~~effect. In another embodiment, Therapeutics which promote Notch function~~ <sup>effect. In another embodiment, Therapeutics which promote Notch function</sup> ~~(hereinafter "Agonist Therapeutics") are administered for therapeutic effect.~~ <sup>Therapeutic</sup> ~~Diagnostic methods and methods of inhibiting Notch expression are also provided.~~

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